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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR (Saratov Oblast)

DATE DISTR. 25 October 1949

SUBJECT Aircraft Observed over Saratov

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. The following type aircraft, flying at an altitude of at least 3,300 feet, was seen once during a demonstration flight in May 1949: Without propeller, pointed nose, very fast and easily maneuverable.
2. According to Soviets, a commission had arrived at the aircraft plant on the same day.
3. Whether the observed plane was built in the SARATOV Aircraft Plant could not be determined. It was rumored among the PWs that a LAG3 type equipped with radial engine was built at this plant at the rate of one plane per day.

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Comment:

1. The production of fighters in the SARATOV Aircraft Plant No. 242 was repeatedly confirmed by other reports. The type of this fighter was very difficult to determine since both radial and in-line engines were reportedly installed in this craft. However, from information and the accurate description contained in two previous reports, it is inferred that this fighter was a post-war Yak type, presumably the Yak-9u equipped with a VK 107 engine. At the same time there are indications in these reports according to which a new series with two pilot's seats (Yak-11?) is being built at this plant. This may explain the contradictory statements on observed radial engines and in-line engines, since both types, the Yak-9u and the Yak-11, were presumably built in the plant in 1948.
2. Only one unconfirmed report of August 1948 has been received concerning a possible conversion of the SARATOV Aircraft Plant to the production of jet fighters. No jet fighters were, however, produced in quantity up to late 1948.

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- 2 -

3. From the given description, the type of the observed jet fighter cannot be determined. It is certain, however, that it belongs to the swept-back category with an interior turbine displayed in the summer of 1948. The designers LAVOCHKIN, MIKROYAN, and ILYUSHIN have developed one type each of this class.
4. Further information is required to ascertain if the first jet fighter prototype was actually built in this plant, as many be inferred from the mentioned air display and the arrival of a special commission.

1 Annex: Jet Aircraft Observed Over SARATOV.

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